THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Rural Roads is one of the components of Bharat Nirman. Under Bharat Nirman, a goal has been set to provide connectivity to all the habitations with a population of more than 1000 in the plain areas and habitations with the population of 500 or more in hilly and tribal areas by the year 2009. The systematic up-gradation of the existing rural road networks is also an integral component of the scheme. Under Bharat Nirman, the target has been set to provide connectivity to 625 habitations in Himachal Pradesh with 2378.125 km of road length and to upgrade/renew 4713.376 km of existing through routes.

(b) Block-wise and district-wise details of projects cleared by the Ministry are made available by the State Government on the website www.pmqsvonline.nic.in.

(c) From the year 2000-01 to 2006-07, the normative entitlement of funds for Himachal Pradesh is Rs. 464 crore. So far proposals amounting to Rs. 1829.40 crore have been cleared and a sum of Rs. 622.71 crore have been released for these projects.

Financial assistance under ARWSP to Himachal Pradesh

1763. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased financial assistance to augment the supply of drinking water in some towns and villages in Himachal Pradesh, as per the requirement under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide adequate drinking water to each town and village in the State, in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Drinking Water is a State subject. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments, financial assistance and technical support is rendered to the State Governments through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM). The ratio of contribution between Centre and the States is 50:50 The allocation of Central share under ARWSP to the States is made based on the requirement and availability of funds. This aspects has been taken into consideration while allocating funds under ARWSP to Himachal Pradesh. Based on inter State allocation criteria, the total allocation under ARWSP(N) is Rs. 96.63 crores in 2006-07 and Rs. 96.63 crore has been released to Himachal Pradesh. In addition Rs. 4.50 crores and Rs. 43.86 lakhs have been released under the components of calamity relief and Desert Development Programme (DDP) to the State from ARWSP. The provision of drinking water under ARWSP is confined to rural habitations and not to towns.

Under Bharat Nirman Programme, it is proposed to cover uncovered habitations as well as to address problem of slipped back and quality affected habitations by 2008-09.

Awareness of NREGA

1764. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to generate awareness among the rural population, regarding Employment Guarantee Act and the result thereof; and

(b) the State-wise total number of minorities employed under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Government is making concerted efforts to disseminate information about the scheme in the rural areas by the way of audio-visual and printed material based publicity campaigns. States have been advised to hold special Gram Sabhas. As a result thereof the awareness of NREGA among rural population is gathering momentum.

(b) Community-wise data of beneficiaries is not monitored under NREGA.